Fudge It!

by Don Fudge

Shape Sequence Animation

Last month I began a discussion of animation by describing how to effect scrolling on the screen. That launches us into a look at shape sequence animation.

With vector shapes you can use whatever shape table numbers you want, in whatever order you want, and any number of shapes can occur in a sequence. For example, suppose you wanted to make a stick-figure man "walk." You might have a sequence of 4, 7, 6, 5, 1, 9, 3, 5, 2, 7 for shape numbers of your sequence shapes. That's ten sequence-shape numbers, with repeating allowed. Shape numbers are referring to Applesoft shape numbers which get numbers because of their shape table index. You needn't use shapes' numbers from assembly, but in Basic it's the only convenient way to DRAW or XDRAW. It might be more convenient
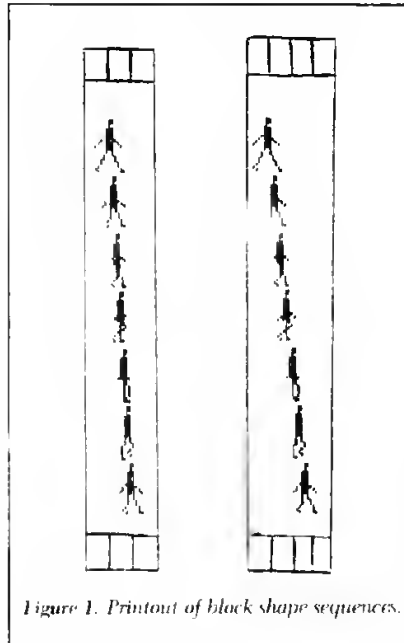

Figure 1. Printout of black shape sequences.

to have your shape table numbers be the same as the shape sequence numbers. One thing that makes this not particularly important is the fact that you'll often use specific shapes more than once in a sequence.

Walking

Think of walking. There are a couple of times in a walking sequence when, viewed from the side, one specific shape could represent more than one specific aspect of the sequence. There's no sin in using the number 4 shape twice, for example. So an algorithm to have a stick figure walk will be constructed like so:

1) Erase, by XDRAW, the shape at old coordinates (OX,OY).
2) Draw, by XDRAW, the shape at new coordinates (X,Y).
3) Dump the new coordinates into the old coordinates (OX = X;OY = Y).
4) Calculate the new coordinates using a step value, X = X + STEP. If the figure is moving vertically as well as horizontally, such as walking upstairs, also do Y = Y + STEP.
5) Go back to 1.

Remember that if you're doing page flipping things will be more complex and you'll be drawing on one screen while displaying the next. The fundamentals of this method were covered in my April column. Page flipping is a way to stop showing the drawing *process* and begin showing the drawing *results* only. The effect of this is to smooth things out and make the animation not look flickery.

Which Screen, Which Shape, Draw and Erase Chart

screen on which to erase/draw	screen displayed	shape # erased	shape # drawn	HL of shape erased	HL of shape drawn
1	2	1	3	0	0
2	1	2	4	0	0
1	2	3	5	0	0
2	1	4	6	0	0
1	2	5	7	0	0
2	1	6	1	0	1
1	2	7	2	0	1
2	1	1	3	1	1
1	2	2	4	1	1
2	1	3	5	1	1
1	2	4	6	1	1
2	1	5	7	1	1
1	2	6	1	1	2
2	1	7	2	1	2
1	2	1	3	2	2
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
2	1	5	7	34	34
1	2	6	1	34	0
2	1	7	2	34	0
1	2	1	3	0	0

Table: Which Screen, Which Shape, Draw and Erase chart

MANA

3-byte wide block shape

1st byte	2nd byte	3rd byte	sequence #	shape # from MANA	centered on this hor coord	VT VB	move HL and HR up by 1?	hor coords of block shape boundaries	MANC seq #
			1	1	35	19 40	yes	28-49	-
			2	6	38	19,40	no	28-49	1
			3	2	40	19,40	no	26 49	2+7
			4	7	42	19 40	yes	35 56	3
			5	3	45	19 40	no	35 56	4
			6	8	47	19 40	no	35 56	5
			7	4	49	19,40	yes	42 63	6
			8	9	52	19 40	no	42 63	-
			9	10	54	19 40	no	42 63	-

Figure 2a. MANA. Incrementing the horizontal byte column (X) coordinate by the step value three times per sequence.

MANC

5-byte wide block shape

1st byte	2nd byte	3rd byte	4th byte	5th byte	seq #	shape #	shape centered on hor coord	VT VB	move HL and HR up by 2?	hor coords of block shape boundaries
					1	6	35	0 21	yes	28 63
					2	2	37	0 21	no	28 63
					3	7	39	0 21	no	28 63
					4	3	41	0 21	no	28 63
					5	8	43	0 21	no	28 63
					6	4	45	0 21	no	28 63
					7	2	47	0 21	no	28 63

Figure 2b. MANC. Adding the step value to the horizontal byte column (X) coordinate when the sequence is finished.

This is a good place to discuss block shape sequences. With block shapes, it's not just a matter of drawing proper shape sequences in the proper places at the proper times and incrementing by a constant step value for the next coordinate. It's true that you can place vector shapes anywhere on the screen at any time, with illegal positions at X<0,X>279,Y<0 and Y>191 (so use these for parameter checking). But block shapes cannot be handled likewise.

With block shapes you must stay within Y = 0 and Y = 191 and also X byte column (horizontal offset) 0 and 39. And you can't move less than 1 byte horizontally if you have only one shape, unless you want to use relatively slow *shift animation*. See *Hi-Res Secrets* for details on that. So, you'll almost always be using what's known as *pre-shifted shapes*, in sequences of seven.

Pre-shifted shape sequences are block shape sequences that allow less-than-7-dot (1 visible byte) moves horizontally. For similar graphics objects, such as seven identical flying saucers, pre-shifted shapes are a simple matter of running an automatic sequence creator (Listing 1) on the first flying saucer and saving the resultant seven-shape sequence as a table. Take a look at Figures 1, 2a and 2b.

In Figure 1 we see a step 1 (per move), seven-shape block shape sequence that is 3 bytes wide, and a step 2, seven-shape block shape sequence that is 4 bytes wide. Consider the left and right boundaries of these shape blocks to be the actual block shape boundaries. Notice how throughout the running of a shape sequence, neither the X coordinate nor the Y coordinate changes one iota. It is only when the sequence is finished that we add the step value to the horizontal byte-column coordinate. This is illustrated in Figure 2b. In Figure 2a, however, the X coordinate is incremented three times per sequence. In both diagrams, HR means horizontal right coordinate, HL means horizontal left coordinate, VT means vertical top coordinate, and VB means vertical bottom coordinate.

```
                              Listing 1. Sequence Creator.
  0  ONERR  GOTO 63990
  1  PRINT  CHR$ (4);"BLOADTEST H (CALL2186)": GOSUB 2500: GOTO 600
  2  NONE : INPUT "SHAPE TABLE NAME: ";STN$: IF  LEN (STN$ ) = 0 THEN 600
  4  D$ =  CHR$ (4): PRINT D$"BLOAD",STN$
  5  HOME : VTAB 21: INPUT "SHAPE #: ";SHN: POKE 7,SHN
 15  POKE  - 16304,0: POKE  - 16297,0
 18  VS = 1:BS = 0
 20  INPUT "VTOP:";VT: INPUT "VBOT:";VB: INPUT "HRIGHT:",HR: INPUT "HLEFT:"
     ,HL
 30  POKE 252,VT: POKE 253,VB: POKE 254,HR: POKE 255,HL
 42  CALL 2116
 43  HOME : VTAB 21: INPUT "DO YOU WANT ANOTHER SHAPE? (Y/N);",QH$: IF  LEN
     (QH$ ) = 0 THEN 43
 44  IF  ASC (QH$) <  / 89 THEN  HOME : VTAB 21: GOSUB 63000: GOTO 600
 45  GOTO 5
 47  POKE  - 16303,0: POKE  - 16298,0: HOME : VTAB 1: PRINT "USE THE PADDLE
     S TO MOVE THE DOT TO THE  UPPER LEFT RECTANGLE POINT. HIT PDL 0   BUT
     TON. THEN MOVE THE DOT TO THE  LOWER  RIGHT RECTANGLE POINT. HIT PDL 1
     BUTTON.": GOSUB 63000
 48  POKE 232,248: POKE 233,0: SCALE= 1: ROT= 64
 49  POKE  - 16304,0: POKE  - 16297,0
 50  HOME :P1 =  PDL (1): IF P1 > 150 THEN 50
 55  P0 =  PDL (0): XDRAW 1 AT P0,P1:X% = P0:Y% = P1
 60  P1 =  PDL (1): IF P1 > 150 THEN 60
 65  FOR QH = 1 TO 200: NEXT : HOME : VTAB 21: PRINT "X: ";P0: PRINT "Y: ";P1

 70  P0 =  PDL (0): XDRAW 1 AT X%,Y%: XDRAW 1 AT P0,P1:X% = P0:Y% = P1
 80  B0 =  PEEK ( - 16287): IF B0 > 127 AND FL = 0 THEN FL = 1: GOTO 100
 85  B1 =  PEEK ( - 16286): IF B1 > 127 AND SG = 0 THEN SG = 1: GOTO 110
 90  GOTO 60
100  VT = P1:HL =  INT (P0 / 7): PRINT  CHR$ (7): IF SG = 1 THEN 120
105  GOTO 60
110  VB = P1:HR =  INT (P0 / 7): PRINT  CHR$ (7): IF FL = 1 THEN 120
115  GOTO 60
120  HOME : VTAB 21: PRINT "HOR.--FROM:"HL" TO "HR"---WIDTH:"(HR - HL )
125  XDRAW 1 AT P0,P1
130  PRINT "VER.--FROM:"VT" TO "VB"---HEIGHT:"(VB - VT): VTAB 23: PRINT "J
     OT THIS DOWN! (HIT ANY KEY TO CONT.)": GOSUB 63000
150  POKE 252,VT: POKE 253,VBOT: POKE 254,HRIGHT: POKE 255,HLEFT
155  HCOLOR= 3
160  HPLOT 7 * HRIGHT + 7,VT TO 7 + HRIGHT + 7,VB TO 7 + HLEFT,VB TO 7 + H
     LEFT,VT TO 7 + HRIGHT + 7,VT
170  IF ZQ = 1 THEN  RETURN
```

Listing continued

```
              VT
            · · · · · ·
HL · · · · · · · · HR
            · · · · · ·
            · · · · · ·
              VB
```

Again, block shapes have only 40 possible X coordinates per screen, not 280 like vector shapes, because block shapes use byte-column coordinates, not regular X coordinates, in the horizontal direction.

Block Shape Sequences

In Figure 1, shapes 1–10 were extracted from a vector shape table (MAN) to create the nine shapes in MANA's block shape sequence table, which was updated three times per sequence in a very non-standard way. But from MANA was created MANC, a standard seven-shape ever-incrementing sequence of block shapes (Figure 2a). All it took was

```
180  PRINT : INPUT "IS THE RECTANGLE OONE O.K.? (Y/N):";ANS: IF  LEN (ANS)
     = 0 THEN 180
185  IF  ASC (ANS) = 78 THEN SG = 0: NCOLOR= 0:FL = 0:ZQ = 1: GOSUB 160:ZQ
     = 0: HCOLOR= 3: GOTO 50
191  GOTO 600
204  HOME : UTAB 21
205  PRINT "SNAPE # "ST
200  POKE 7,ST: POKE  - 16304,0: POKE  - 16297,0
210  IF  QZ = 0 THEN QZ = 1:ZQ = 1: HCOLOR= 0: GOSUB 160: HCOLOR= H
215  NN = NN + 1
220  CALL 2048
225  IF NN >  = NS THEN 300
240  FOR QQ = 1 TO SS: CALL 2186: NEXT
245  ST = ST + 1
250  GOTO 204
300  D$ =  CHR$ (4)
301  UTAB 21
302  INPUT "FILE NAME: ";N$: IF  LEN (N$) = 0 THEN 302
303  INPUT "OIO YOU GET IT RIGHT? (Y/N):";Z$: IF  LEN (Z$) = 0 THEN 302
304  IF  ASC (Z$) <  > 89 THEN 302
307  TEXT : UTAB 1: HOME : GOSUB 5040
308  LL = 256 * LS
309  PL = LS
310  PRINT D$"BSAVE";N$;",A2304,L";LL
312  PRINT "LAST SHAPE AND ALL THE SHAPES THAT CAHE BEFOPE IT TOOK UP "LL"
     BYTES.": PRINT "LAST SHAPE: ";LS: PRINT "(HIT ANY KEY TO CONTINUE):"
     : GOSUB 63010
400  GOTO 600
402  HOME : UTAB 21: INPUT "STEP SIZE: ";SS
403  PRINT : INPUT "# OF SHAPES IN SEQUENCE: ";NS: PRINT : INPUT "# OF 1ST
     BLOCK-SHAPE IN SEQUENCE TO BE  SAVED: ";ST
404  PRINT : INPUT "READY TO BEGIN AUTOMATIC SCAN & SAVE     PROCESS FOR TH
     IS SEQUENCE? (Y/N):";QH$: IF  LEN (QH$) = 0 THEN 600
405  IF  ASC (QH$) <  > 89 THEN 600
410  GOTO 204
600  POKE  - 16303,0: POKE  - 16298,0: HOME : UTAB 1: INVERSE : UTAB 18: PRINT
     "MENU:": NORMAL
601  SG = 0:FL = 0:ZQ = 0:QZ = 0:NN = 0
602  SCALE= S: HCOLOR= H: ROT= R
603  PRINT "(HIT ESC TO QUIT)": PRINT
605  PRINT "(0)ABORT SCREEN——START OVER": PRINT
610  PRINT "(1)LOAO BLOCK SHAPE TABLE": PRINT
640  PRINT "(2)GIVE HOR. STEP SIZE FOR BLOCK-SHAPE     SEQUENCE & SAVE ENT
     IRE SEQUENCE": PRINT
650  PRINT "(3)DEFINE BLOCK SHAPE NITH PADDLES": PRINT
660  PRINT "(4)UIEN SCREEN": PRINT
690  FLASH : PRINT "(CHOOSE 0-4):";: NORMAL : GET A$: PRINT  CHR$ (13)
692  IF  ASC (A$) = 27 THEN  TEXT : HOME : END
700  IF  LEN (A$) = 0 THEN 690
710  IF  UAL (A$) < 0 OR  UAL (A$) > 4 THEN 690
719  IF A$ = "0" THEN 912
720  ON  UAL (A$) GOTO 2,402,47,920,600
721  GOTO 600
912  INPUT "SURE YOU HANT TO ABORT SCREEN? (Y/N):";QH$: IF  LEN (QH$) = 0 THEN
     912
913  IF  ASC (QH$) <  > 89 THEN 600
914  HGR : GOTO 600
920  POKE  - 16304,0: POKE  - 16297,0: UTAB 21: GOSUB 63000: GOTO 600
2540 POKE 2296,1: POKE 2297,0: POKE 2298,4: POKE 2299,0: POKE 2300,4: POKE
     2301,0
2510 POKE  - 16301,0
2511 POKE  - 16303,0: POKE  - 16298,0: INVERSE : PRINT "IF YOU ENTERED TH
     IS PROGRAM HITH SOME-  THING ON THE HI-RES SCREEN YOU HANTEO TOSAVE,
     HIT THE SPACE BAR NOH———         OTHERHISE HIT ANY KEY EXCEPT THE SP
     HCE  BAR.": NORMAL
2512 PK =  PEEK ( - 16384): IF PK > 127 THEN  POKE  - 16368,0: GOTO 2514
2513 GOTO 2512
2514 IF  PK = 160 THEN 2520
2515 HGR
2520 RETURN
5040 HOME : UTAB 21: INPUT "# OF LAST SHAPE IN BLOCK-SHAPE TABLE: ";LS: IF
     LS < 1 OR LS > 23 THEN 5040
50   RETURN
63000 PRINT "                        HIT ANY KEY TO CONT
     INUE ":
63010 PK =  PEEK ( - 16384): IF PK > 127 THEN  POKE  - 16368,0: RETURN
63620 GOTO 63010
63990 PRINT  CHR$ (7): POKE 216,0
63991 PP =  PEEK (222): IF PP = 254 THEN  RESUME
63994 POKE  - 16303,0: POKE  - 16298,0
63995 PRINT "YOUR ERROR IS CODE #:"PP: GOSUB 63000: CALL 54915: GOTO 600
```

loading various vector and block shapes into SCANA (see the April column) and saving them at pre-calculated coordinates (saving them as various shape table numbers).

Looking at Figure 2a again, notice that the block shapes are 5 bytes wide, but could just as easily have been 4 bytes wide. (The extra "blank" byte was used for experimental pur-

poses.) Now, look at the first and seventh shapes. Where would we put the next (eighth) shape if we were to continue the sequence, and what would it look like?

Well, first notice that each shape is being moved 2 dots to the right of the previous one. Then observe that we'll be looking for a shape like sequence number 1 to continue the "move-

ment." Also note that X = 49 will be the horizontal coordinate of the center of the next shape, so the first shape in the sequence will end up centered exactly on the line again, just as it is in its diagram position. Since the figure in the block shape sequence will move over exactly 2 bytes and the step value, in dots, between each of the figures in the shape sequence is 2, then that means the step value is equal to the required horizontal byte-coordinate increment we'll be using just before starting the sequence over.

What this means is that during the display of the seven shapes shown, all block shape coordinates stay exactly the same. It's only just before the sequence restart that the horizontal byte coordinate gets increased by 2. So what's happening, in effect, is that most of the movements of the block shape figures take place within the boundaries of the block shape, and not by coordinate manipulation. Incidentally, all shape numbers given in MANA and MANC are taken from MAN, a vector shape table for a man walking. The actual shape numbers you'll refer to as you build and use a block shape table such as MANC are shapes 1–7, equivalent to sequence numbers 1–7.

Two-Page Flipping

When you use pre-shifted shapes of the block shape sequence variety and then go for unflickering smoothness by use of two-page flipping animation, the level of complexity goes up by several orders of magnitude. Check out the table and you'll see that things can get awkward pretty quickly. You draw on one screen and display the other. One screen will get the sequence 1, 3, 5, 7, 2, 4, 6, 1, 3, etc., while the other screen is getting, alternately, 2, 4, 6, 1, 3, 5, 7, etc.

The strangest part is when <single asterisk> HL <horizontal left byte coordinate> is 0 while erasing shape 6, 1 while drawing shape 1, back to 0 for erasing shape 7 on the opposite screen (double asterisks) and up to 1 again for drawing shape 2. It's important to keep good charts of what's happening when coding such animation routines.

```
0   ONERR  GOTO 63990
1   POKE 8,0: REM  8 MUST BE 0E0 FOR THIS PROG. TO WORK!!!!!!!!!!!!
5   HIMEM: 36864
10  D$ = CHR$ (4)
25  TEXT : INPUT "SHAPE TABLE NAME: ";N$: IF LEN (N$) = 0 THEN 25
27  PRINT : INPUT "YOU WANT YOUR SHAPE TO TRAVEL:          (1) ----  RIGHT
    HARDS                                      (2) <---- LEFTHARDS        (1-2)
    ";Q: IF Q < 1 OR Q  2 THEN 27
28  IF Q = 1 THEN  PRINT  CHR$ (4);"BLOADTEST F (CALL36934)"
29  IF Q = 2 THEN  PRINT  CHR$ (4);"BLOADTEST G (CALL36934)"
30  PRINT : PRINT "INSERT YOUR SHAPE TABLE DISK NOW:": GET A$: PRINT  CHR$
    (13): CALL 1002: PRINT D$"BLOAD";N$: PRINT "ADDRESS: " PEEK (43634) +
     PEEK (43635) * 256: PRINT "LENGTH: " PEEK (43616) +  PEEK (43617) *
    256
31  INPUT "WIDTH:";WD: INPUT "HEIGHT:";HT: INPUT "STEP SIZE:";SS: INPUT "R
    IGHT BOUNDARY OF LEFT SIDE OF SHAPE:";RB: IF Q = 1 THEN  POKE 235,WD -
    SS: POKE 29,(RB - SS) + WD: POKE 30,RB - SS
32  INPUT "# OF 1ST SHAPE IN SEQUENCE: ";SH: POKE 239,WD: POKE 238,RB: POKE
    237,HT: POKE 236,SS: IF Q = 2 THEN  POKE 25,39 - WD: POKE 235,SS + 39
33  IF Q = 1 THEN  POKE 36955,SH + 1: POKE 36987,SH + 1: POKE 36994,SH + 1: POKE
    37029,SH + 5: POKE 37046,SH: POKE 37080,SH - 1: POKE 37084,SH + 6: POKE
    37133,SH + 1
34  IF Q = 2 THEN  POKE 37092,SH + 7: POKE 37096,SH: POKE 37152,SH + 5: POKE
    36955,SH + 5: POKE 36987,SH + 6: POKE 36994,SH + 5: POKE 37029,SH + 1
    : POKE 37046,SH + 6
35  TEXT : INPUT "DELAY LOOP HI BYTE (1-255):";A: IF A < 1 OR A > 255 THEN
    35
36  POKE 9,A
37  PRINT : INPUT "DELAY LOOP LO BYTE (1-255):";B: IF B < 1 OR B    EN
    37
38  POKE 31,B
40  CALL 36934
42  HOME
43  TEXT : PRINT "$EF:" PEEK (239): PRINT "$EE:" PEEK (230): PRINT "$ED:" PEEK
    (237): PRINT "$EC:" PEEK (236): PRINT "$EB:" PEEK (235): PRINT "$1D:"
    PEEK (29): PRINT "$1E:" PEEK (30): PRINT : PRINT
45  TEXT : INPUT "DO YOU WANT TO SEE IT SOME MORE? (Y/N):";Q$: IF  LEN (Q$
    ) = 0 THEN 45
46  IF  ASC (Q$) <  > 89 THEN  END
50  GOTO 31
63990  POKE 216,0
63991  ONERR  GOTO 63990
63992  PK =  PEEK (222): IF PK = 254 THEN  RESUME
63995  GOTO 0
```

Listing 2. ASMINPUT.

Now, if you key in TEST F(CALL 36934) and TEST G (CALL36934) in Listings 4 and 5, and then MANC and ASMINPUT in Listings 3 and 2, you'll have a two-page flipping block shape sequence using routine for moving left or right using seven-shape block sequences. Here are some BSAVE addresses and lengths for various files in these listings:

Listing 3   MANC,A$900,L1646 (step 2, 21 high, 4 wide, 7 shapes)

Listing 4   TEST F (CALL36934), A 36864, L324

Listing 5   TEST G (CALL36934), A 36864, L342

Listing 6   TEST H (CALL2186), A 2048, L224

When keying in MANC, ignore the data, such as from $970 to $9FF, that's omitted and key in only data given.

I recommend POKE 103.1: POKE 104,96: POKE 24576,0 in your Hello (boot) program before running any of the programs in this article.

Let's "make the man walk" by animating the seven shapes in MANC with the TEST F (CALL36934) and TEST G (CALL36934) animation routines. (These routines effect right and left

Listing 3. MANC.

movement.) The Basic *driver* program we'll use (to be RUN now) is ASMINPUT. Give the shape table name of MANC. (I'm assuming you've saved the necessary files.) Say RIGHTWARDS for direction of travel. Specify a width of 4, a height of 21, a step size of

Fudge It!

2, a right boundary of 34, and a first shape in sequence of 1. Then give a delay loop high byte of 70 and a delay loop low byte of 255.

This results in a realistic walking speed and no flicker problems (due to the two-page flipping animation in these routines), but the two-step movements are somewhat noticeable. A good way to improve this would be to have 14 shapes in the sequence and do one-step movements, still incrementing the horizontal byte coordinate by 2 at the end of the sequence, but using only one half the delay time. Notice that when HR (horizontal right coordinate) gets to 34 the sequence restarts. That's the 34 you input above. Hit any key and do it again, but use a delay loop high byte of 35 so things move twice as fast. (Ignore the $EE:34 and other data given on the screen; this just indicates how the variables are doing once the action stops.)

Now he's marching along. You can see that the step movements within block shape parameters are no longer noticeable. Now try a step value of 1 and a delay loop high byte of 70 again. Notice how block shape sequences meant for a step value of 2 do weird things with a value of 1. But also notice that the intra-block step movements, being only 1 dot each, are much less obvious with a step value of 1. These latter two experiments should support the idea that 14 one-step shapes with a horizontal byte coordinate increment of 2 will yield the smoothest results. (Incidentally, when moving to the left, choose LEFTWARDS, but for the other inputs choose the same as you did for RIGHT-WARDS.)

Sequence Creation

Now key in TEST II (CALL2186) and SEQUENCE CREATOR, Listings 6 and 1. (Don't forget about the POKE 104,96, etc., as advised previously.) Then RUN SEQUENCE CREATOR, hitting return upon entry into the program. Choose (1) LOAD IN BLOCK SHAPE TABLE and give MANC as the shape table name. Then specify shape number 1, VTOP of 10, VBOT of 31, HRIGHT of 5, HLEFT of 1, and no, you don't need any more shapes

(when asked).

Now, in the menu, choose (3) DEFINE BLOCK SHAPE WITH PADDLES, read the instructions, and move the paddles to find out which one makes the dot cursor move horizontally. We'll call this paddle your X paddle and the other your Y paddle. Move the dot cursor just outside the upper left corner of the imaginary rectangular block around the man shape, and hit the X paddle button. Now move to the lower right corner and hit the Y paddle button—*but not until you've moved at least 7 dots to the right of that position, to make room for intra-block step movements.* (Use a 14-dot offset if your step value is 2 and a 21-dot offset if your step value is 3, and so on.) Seven times the step value to the right (lower) of your block shape is where you'll hit the Y button.

When asked if the rectangle (which defines the block shape parameters) is okay, answer yes or no. No gets you another chance. Now choose (2) GIVE HORIZONTAL STEP SIZE FOR BLOCK-SHAPE SEQUENCE & SAVE ENTIRE SEQUENCE, and specify 1 for step size, 7 for number of shapes in sequence, 1 for number of first block shape in sequence to be saved, and Y (yes) for "Are you ready for this sequence?" Keep your eyes peeled, and you'll see all seven shapes made by shifting (after which each in turn will be scanned and the resultant data saved in memory). When asked for file name use TEST and give 7 as the number of the last shape in the shape table.

Once the sequence is saved, use it when you RUN ASMINPUT to check the latter out. Step size must be 1, unless you used something greater than that in your sequence creation. Unless you've made a mistake the man will float very smoothly.

If all this sounds like it's right up your alley, drop me a line for more information on routines and utilities for graphics, sounds and more.

Next time I'll dissect the fastest color-fill algorithm around to show how it works. You'll get a chance to save it, a program to use it with and a palette of colors for posterity. See you then! ■